credits
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translator Hinahime
proofreader Hinahime
Editor StarStorm
QC MiYoko
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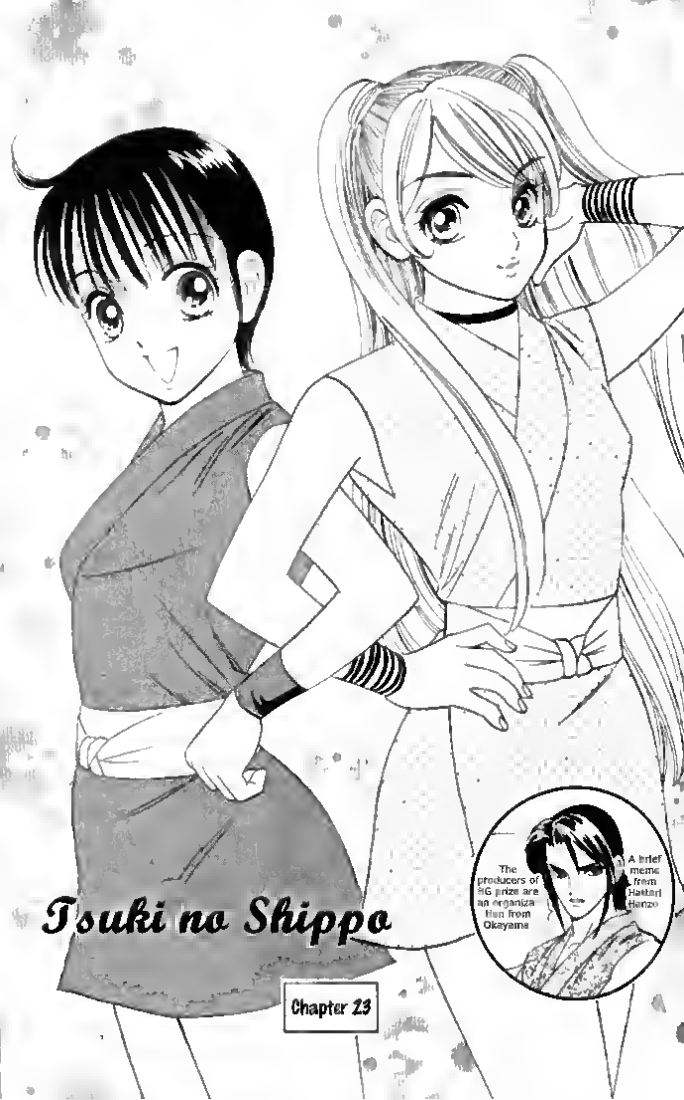

Tsuki no Shippo
Chapter 23
The producers of RG prize are an organiza tion from Okayama
A brief meme from Hattori Hanzo

ヌヘ
ヌー
YUURI...

くわっ
STOP IT..
I WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE AN OLD MAN!
Uh
Mur... Murderer?
YOU'VE FINALLY REVEALED YOUR TRUE COLORS.
YOU MURDERER!
さっ
ヒュ
ひょい
!!
DAMN!
What are you doing to the sage!
スカッ
DAMN IT!
DAMN IT!

EH!
YOU GUYS,
B-but... he was carrying a sickle!
HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED THAT THERE ISN'T ANY MURDEROUS INTENT COMING FROM THE SAGE?
THIS GRAMPS WAS TRYING TO KILL US!
LET ME GO!
Stop it!
Huh?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE SAGE WAS ONLY TRYING TO CUT LOOSE THESE EXTREMELY TIGHT KNOTS WITH THE SICKLE.
Yes.
Treat
leg
Eh
MR... MR. SAGE!

YUKI-CHAN,
WE CAN WITNESS THE MEDI-CAL CAPA-BILITIES OF THE SAGE!
WK WK
OLDER PEOPLE WAKE UP EARLIER!
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
Ugh.

MR. SAGE, ARE YOU ABLE TO TREAT GOEMON'S LEG?
Uhh... Mmm...

WHAT MEDICINE IS THAT?
Rin!

IS IT TRUE?

Apply this... every morning.
IT FEELS ICY

Yes
I'll treat it now
ARE YOU SERIOUS?

Hyou!
Tou!
Sha!
Kei!
Jin!
Retsu!
Zai!
Zen!
ビュッ
ビュッ
ビクッ
Pretends to swallow
GULP
EH?
Swallow this.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING...!
Huuu~
WHA...
WHAT?
Okay,
I've finished the treatment.
EH?
IT'S TREATED JUST LIKE THAT...
Swallow it.
...
Here...

*A shinobi is a male ninja. A kunoichi is a female ninja.

NO WONDER YOU WERE ABLE TO DODGE MY ATTACKS...
AND THAT SPELL JUST NOW WAS THE "NINE-WORDS INCANTATION", RIGHT?
THAT SICKLE IS A SPECIAL SICKLE THAT ONLY SHINOBI USE.
SHINOBI?

HOWEVER, SHINOBI THESE DAYS AREN'T GOOD AT IT.
AH, GREAT GRANDPA ALWAYS DOES THAT IN THE MORNING.
That was the... Ten-Words Incantation...

Following the Nine-Words Incantation, you place the word for Hope, using your finger to write it out, swallowing it for it to come true. Wish...
TEN-WORDS INCANTATION?

陣者皆烈
WHAT IS THE "NINE-WORDS INCANTATION"?
IT IS A SPECIAL SPELL THAT ONLY IGA'S SHINOBI KNOW. IT USES NINE SEALS TO INCREASE OR STABILIZE ONE'S MENTAL STATE.
SP... SPELL?

I WANT TO KNOW, TOO!
MR. SAGE! WHAT SHOULD I WRITE FOR SUCCESS IN MY LOVE LIFE?
TO REALIZE A WISH?
THEN... WHAT ABOUT THE SPELL FOR IMMORTALITY?
There is still no such thing...
There is no such thing...
To pray for recovery... write "Yes"...
DON'T BE SO UNREASONABLE
Just make one up if it doesn't exist!
It's a big problem if there isn't one...!
EVEN THOUGH I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, I'M MOVING FURTHER AWAY FROM HANZO-SAMA!
ALSO, I'LL HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF THE NINE AND TEN-WORDS INCANTATIONS!
FROM TODAY ONWARDS, I'LL DO IT ONCE IN THE DAY AND ONCE AT NIGHT!

Editor's Note: Usagi's name is also synonymous with the words for "Rabbit" xD

HANZO-SAMA,
I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT IT!
IT'S THIS GUY!
THE RABBIT THAT WAS EATING OUR VEGETABLES!
RABBIT?
JUST ADD IT TO TONIGHT'S DINNER.
It's been a long time since I've eaten meat.
INSTEAD OF STEAMING IT, WE SHOULD BARBEQUE IT! IT WOULD TASTE BETTER!
OUR BODIES ARE ALREADY WELL-TONED!
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO KILL INDIS-CRIMINATELY!
ばっ
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO ABSTAIN FROM MEAT!
You'll emit body odor!
IT WOULD BE BETTER TO EAT MEAT TO STRENGTHEN YOUR BODY WHILE YOU ARE STILL YOUNG...
You...
IDIOT!
EH?
SENDING IT BACK TO THE WILD!
スタ
スタ
HANZO-SAMA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

スタ
スタ
WELL THEN, GOODBYE.
ぴょん
ぴょん
スタ
LISTEN,
YOU MUSTN'T GO NEAR THE VILLAGE'S VEGETABLE PATCH AGAIN.
スタ
スタ
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME!
"Hanzo-sama"
YOU BETTER NOT GO OVER-BOARD
ぴょん
ぴょーん
スタ
スタ
ピー

THESE ARE THE NEW LETTERS FOR COMMISSIONING
I HEARD THAT HANZO-SAMA STARTED REARING A RABBIT.
HANZO-SAMA MUST BE TIRED OUT FROM OVERWORKING
SO WE CAN'T EAT IT, BUT WE CAN RAISE IT?

MR. SAGE, WHAT HERBS DO YOU USE TO MAKE THE CONTENTS OF THAT MEDICINE CONTAINER?
Twis.

GOEMON'S LEGS HAVE COMPLETELY RECOVERED!
THIS IS GREAT!
Yo!
What are you doing?
Enter the door.

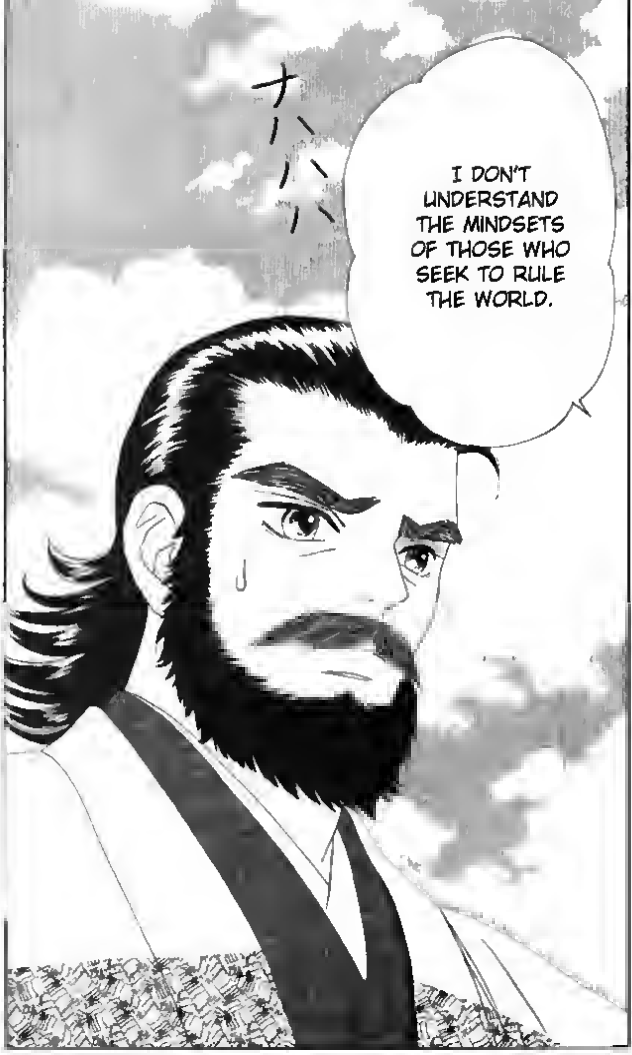
WHY DID MR. SAGE'S MEDICINE T,KE EFFECT, BUT NOT MINE?
O-OTOGIRI?
I'VE USED THAT TO M,KE MEDICINE BEFORE...

And I told you "Your illness is incurable" what would you do ?
If you come down with a major illness...
Anybody is able to do it...
For example.
This is just wishful thinking!
It was due to the Ten-words Incantation...
MR SAGE,
THAT SPELL?
ARE YOU A SORCERER?
What if I changed it to "I can cure your illness immediately. Don't worry"?
IN THAT CASE, SINCE THERE IS NO CURE, I WOULD BE VERY DEPRESSED .
Illnesses are a result of the change in one's aura
phew
THEN ... THEN, I WOULD HAVE THE CONFIDENCE THAT IT CAN BE CURED
Even if it were a lie... to allow the patient to feel more optimistic... is the best kind of treatment..
T-THAT'S JUST NONSENSE, RIGHT?

When the condition of one's body is poor... one will feel weak. Due to stress and anxiety, the body would slowly become weak.
TREATMENT?
Therefore... allowing the patient to feel optimistic the success of treatment would increase... the medicine... would have a better effect...
LET ME HELP!
ENCOURAGING PATIENTS IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT!
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS!
That's when the patient's lifespan has reached its end. We can't defy the heavens.
HOWEVER, THERE ARE STILL SOME CASES WHERE, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, THERE IS NO CURE...

Give up on those foolish ideas to obtain immortality.
All living things in this world will eventually die.
IN. IN THE END, WE HAVE TO USE ONE'S LIFESPAN AS AN EXCUSE TO BRUSH IT ASIDE?
MR. SAGE, YOU'RE TOO SCHEMING!
ANYBODY WOULD WANT TO BE IMMORTAL!
WHY IS THE IDEA OF LIVING FOREVER FOOLISH?
HAVING LIVED SUCH A LONG LIFE YOURSELF, IT'S JUST TOO MUCH!

YES THE RADISHES LOOK VERY NICE...
HANZO,
YOU LEFT THE CASTLE SECRETLY AGAIN, JUST TO FARM...
THE RADISHES THIS SEASON HAVE GROWN REALLY WELL!
Ikamamatsu
MY LORD!
OH MY, NOBUNAGA-SAMA IS GOING TO EXTORT ME OF ALL MY ARMY RESOURCES AGAIN~~
...THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO SAY... YOU MUST HEAD TO AZUCHI TODAY!
COMPARED TO A LARGE TERRITORY, IF A GOOD COUNTRY WERE TO BE RAISED, THE FAMILY WOULD ALSO PROSPER...
I'LL CARRY IT.
NO NEED.
"THE POOR HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BE FREE." SO THIS IS WHAT IT REFERS TO.
INCREASING MY TERRITORY WOULD ONLY CREATE MORE TROUBLESOME MATTERS, CAUSING MY LIFESPAN TO SHORTEN.
I DISLIKE WARS.


ナハハハ
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE MINDSETS OF THOSE WHO SEEK TO RULE THE WORLD.

えー
プチ
プチ
THERE'S NO POINT IN SAYING ANYTHING NOW.
...MR. SAGE?
THE MOMENT HE STARTED PICKING FLEAS HE STOPPED LISTENING TO WHAT OTHERS WERE SAYING.
がり
がり
WE HAVEN'T ASKED YOU FOR YOUR NAME YET, RIGHT MR. SAGE?
SPEAKING OF WHICH,
I WAS CAUGHT AT USAGI'S HOUSE, IT WAS TERRIBLE...
OH, RIGHT.
おじゃ
おじゃ
DOES THIS GRAMPS REALLY LIKE US?
THIS OLD MAN SEEMS TO LIKE PICKING FLEAS.
ARE THE MOMOCHI A BUNCH OF IDIOTS?
I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU!
WHY WERE YOU CAUGHT?
Momochi.
Momo
STOP ARGUING!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
ぎゃあ
THOSE WHO SAY THAT OTHERS ARE STUPID ARE STUPID THEM-SELVES!
YOU'RE TOO MUCH! ALWAYS TREATING OTHERS AS IF THEY'RE IDIOTS!
ぎゃあ

Eh?
PLEASE TELL US YOUR NAME, MR. SAGE!
AH, MR. SAGE HAS FINISHED PICKING THE FLEAS.
I WANT TO RETURN TO HANZO-SAMA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...!
IT'S EITHER "YOU FORGOT" OR "YOU DON'T KNOW"! WHY IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS!
I forgot
EH
OOH, USAGI THE FAT PIG IS BECOMING ROUNDER
THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN!
YOU HAVE TO TOLERATE IT USAGI HAS PUT ON WEIGHT THESE DAYS
What a funny-looking ll deer!
GOEMON, I'M HUNGRY!
DIDN'T YOU JUST EAT A PERSIMMON?
BUT I'M HUNGRY AGAIN
YOU ARE SO IRRITATING! IF YOU WANT TO WHINE GO OUTSIDE!
Uwaa...
FORGET IT..
MR. SAGE, WOULD YOU LET ME HELP YOU MASSAGE YOUR SHOULDERS?
YUURI SHALL MASSAGE GOEMON-SAMA'S SHOULDERS

とぼ
とぼ
GULL
UWAA...
USAGI!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU CRYING IN SUCH A MANNER...
I'LL GIVE THIS TO YOU, SO DON'T CRY...
I GAVE EVERYTHING TO MR SAGE YESTERDAY, SO NOW THERE'S NOT A SINGLE FRUIT LEFT!
Not even the sour!!
WHAT IS THIS?
THEY'RE STAR CANDIES,
A SWEET FROM NANMAN
THEY LOOK LIKE REAL STARS...!

R-REALLY?
YOU'LL GIVE THIS SHINY BOTTLE TO ME, TOO?
YEAH.
THIS BOTTLE IS A GLASS BOTTLE
SO,
SO SWEET!
I'LL GIVE THEM ALL TO YOU, USAGI
Ah
EH!
YUKI-CHAN IS THE BEST!
THANK YOU!
IT'S.. IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU FINISH EVERYTHING
I'M REALLY HAPPY
I'M GONNA GIVE THIS TO HANZO-SAMA AS A PRESENT..
NO,
NO!
It's shiny~~

THIS IS MEANT FOR YOU, USAGI!
YOU CAN'T GIVE IT TO OTHERS!
I'M SORRY...
I'LL TREASURE IT...
...
USAGI,
LET'S GIVE UP ON COMPLETING THE IMMORTALITY POTION, AND RETURN TO HAMAMATSU...
EH?
MR. SAGE IS RIGHT, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS MEDICINE FOR IMMORTALITY.

HOW CAN THIS BE...
THIS IS REALITY.
ALTHOUGH THE WAY MR. SAGE TREATS HIS PATIENTS IS NOT WRONG,
...OUTDATED?
AFTER MEETING WITH MR. SAGE, IT'S BECOME EVEN CLEARER TO ME
DEPENDING ONLY ON HERBS AND SPELLS IS TOO OUTDATED.
THE MEDICAL STUDIES OF THE NANMAN TRIBE ARE MUCH MORE SPECTACULAR
THEY STUDY IN DETAIL THE STRUCTURE OF THE HUMAN BODY, AND THEIR MEDICAL TREATMENTS ARE MUCH MORE ADVANCED THAN JAPAN'S.

I'M THINKING OF STUDYING IN NANMAN.
I WANT TO GO THERE TO LEARN, SO THAT I CAN HELP EVEN MORE PATIENTS.

YUKI-CHAN
USAGI, DO YOU WANT TO GO TO NANMAN WITH ME?